

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: George C. Marshall Foundation

1. Purpose. To provide information on the George C. Marshall Foundation and its partnership with Junior ROTC.

2. Facts.

a.. The Marshall Foundation's Chairman, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum-Baker, played a key role in helping the Foundation secure a grant for \$880K to support efforts to promote character development through community service. The Foundation intends to develop and pilot a "Leadership and Service Academy" that would integrate Junior ROTC and service learning within a rigorous academic program designed to enhance character and leadership development and improve academic performance.

b. In conjunction with a currently existing Army Junior ROTC program, the Marshall Foundation intends to phase in an initial pilot beginning in the fall of 2001 at a school in the D.C. area (most likely in the D.C. school system). The goal is a premiere character education and service learning program with measurable academic results. Two other pilot programs will follow in either 02 or 03 in locations to be determined.

c. This initiative fits in well with the mission of the George C. Marshall Foundation, which is "to promote the values of selfless service, dedicated effort and strength of character exemplified by Marshall's life and leadership in war and peace and to inspire new generations to follow his example as they face the challenges of the future." The Marshall Foundation has long had an alliance with U.S. Army Cadet Command which it is expanding to include Junior ROTC.

d. The DCPS has been briefed by Ms. Kassenbaum-Baker and the Marshall Foundation and is working out details at the present moment as to which school will host the Leadership and Service Academy.

e. The proposed program structure is as follows:

(1) Eighty to one hundred freshmen will be organized as a JROTC company that will be comprised of two platoons and eight squads with eight to ten students per squad. The leadership at the platoon and company level

will come from sophomore and junior members of the present Junior ROTC unit.

(2) The staffing will consist one of the Junior ROTC Instructors from the existing unit and four core academic instructors. These positions will be funded out of the current staffing so that it will constitute a zero sum gain from both Cadet Command and the school. These teachers will function as an interdisciplinary team and would be responsible for assuring that all DCPS curriculum standards are integrated into their academic program.

(3) In year two and beyond, the interdisciplinary team of teachers will loop with the initial group of students through the sophomore year. The new group of freshmen would have a newly assigned instructional team but the two groups would function as a single community. The program will eventually expand to include Juniors and Seniors.

f. The Marshall Foundation and DCPS are in general agreement regarding the structure for the program. However, the parties are working through the issue of staff selection for the academic teaching positions. The Marshall Foundation would like the positions to be posted district-wide providing the school principal the opportunity to select teachers from a relatively large applicant pool. DCPS administration has indicated that the current collective bargaining agreement with the teachers' union would require the principal to assemble teachers from his or her existing staff. If not resolved soon, this issue could delay initial implementation to enable the Foundation to identify another school system that could provide more flexibility for the staffing and development of a pilot program.

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